花とゆめCOMICS

BOKU WO TSUTSUMU TSUKI NO HIKARI

— EMBRACED BY THE MOONLIGHT —

SAKI HIWATARI 7

花とゆめ COMICS

BOKU WO TSUTSUMU TSUKI NO HIKARI

〔7〕

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花とゆめCOMICS

>summary<

After Ren lost consciousness when he was trying to gain information by performing psychometry on Tokyo Tower, he started asserting himself as the real Kobayashi Rin... While trying to access the Moon Base, which Rin never accomplished in the past, Ren wants to hear Alice sing the "Black Hymn" that will kill all the plants...?! Volume 7 of the PSM≡ sequel!

~Originally published in Bessatsu Hana to Yume~

作品かいせつ

AFTER REN LOST CONSCIOUSNESS WHEN HE WAS TRYING TO GAIN INFORMATION BY PERFORMING PSYCHOMETRY ON TOKYO TOWER, HE STARTED ASSERTING HIMSELF AS THE REAL KOBAYASHI RIN... WHILE TRYING TO ACCESS THE MOON BASE, WHICH RIN NEVER ACCOMPLISHED IN THE PAST, REN WANTS TO HEAR ALICE SING THE "BLACK HYMN" THAT WILL KILL ALL THE PLANTS...?!

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花とゆめCOMICS

Boku Wo Tsutsumu Tsuki No Hikari

-Embraced By the Moonlight-

VOLUME 7

SAKI HIWATARI

BOKU WO TSUTSUMU TSUKI NO HIKARI

CHARACTER INTROS

"MEMORIES OF THE CAP" THE STORY THUS FAR:

★ REN HAS STARTED ACTING STRANGELY SINCE INHERITING RIN'S CAP AND RECEIVING INFORMATION FROM IT. IT'S ALMOST AS IF HE'S RIN AS A CHILD...

★ FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A WHILE, RIN HAS A DREAM SET ON THE MOON BASE, IN WHICH SHION TELLS RIN THAT REN MAY HAVE INHERITED THE MEMORIES OF SHION'S PAST THROUGH THE CAP.

★ ONE NIGHT, REN HAS A DREAM OF CHILD SHION, WHO CRITICIZES ADULT RIN HARSHLY FOR NO LONGER BEING HELPFUL...

★ WHILE TRYING TO UNRAVEL THE MEANING OF THIS DREAM, REN GOES TO TOKYO TOWER WITH KACHIKO AND THE OTHERS. COLLECTING THE LEFTOVER SENTIMENTS OF THE PAST, REN FAINTS...

★ REN ONCE AGAIN SEES CHILD SHION IN A DREAM, BUT THIS TIME IS CONFUSED TO SEE HIM SOBBING. THEN HYAA APPEARS AND TELLS HIM THINGS TOO?!

Shion

RIN'S PREVIOUS INCARNATION. HE CURRENTLY WATCHES OVER THE KOBAYASHI FAMILY AS A "GUARDIAN ANGEL."

Mokuren

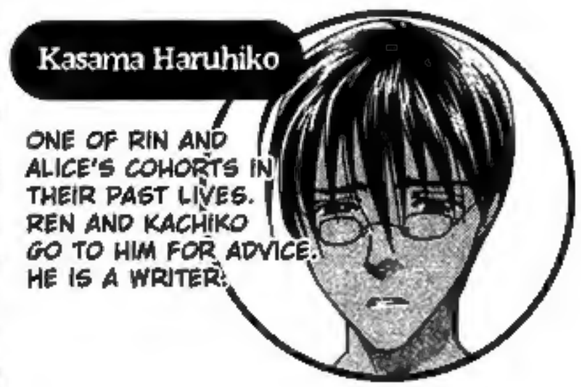
ALICE'S PREVIOUS INCARNATION. LIKE SHION, SHE CURRENTLY WATCHES OVER THE KOBAYASHI FAMILY AS A "GUARDIAN ANGEL."

Yakushimaru Kachiko

REN'S CHILDHOOD FRIEND. SHE HAS ESP ABILITIES LIKE HER FATHER, MIKURO. SHE LIVES WITH THE KOBAYASHI FAMILY.

Caputsun

REN'S CLASSMATE. HE'S "NORMAL"(?!).



Kasama Haruhiko

ONE OF RIN AND ALICE'S COHORTS IN THEIR PAST LIVES. REN AND KACHIKO GO TO HIM FOR ADVICE. HE IS A WRITER.

Kobayashi Ren

OUR MAIN CHARACTER, AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENT. HAVING AWAKENED HIS PSYCHOMETRY ABILITIES, HE'S TAKEN A SIGNIFICANT INTEREST IN HIS FATHER, RIN'S, PAST, BUT...?!

Kobayashi Alice (Maiden name: Sakaguchi)

REN'S MOTHER. SHE IS CURRENTLY MARRIED TO RIN AND WORKS AS A VOCALIST. SHE HAS THE UNIQUE ABILITY OF UNDERSTANDING PLANTS AND ANIMALS' FEELINGS.

Kobayashi Rin

REN'S FATHER. HE'S SUFFERED UNDER THE BURDEN ON INHERITING SHION'S WILL AND MEMORIES, BUT NOW HE ENJOYS A HAPPY FAMILY LIFE WITH ALICE. HE'S A FREELANCE COMPOSER, AND HAS VERY HIGH ESP ABILITIES.

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EMBRACED BY THE MOONLIGHT

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This story is a work of fiction. Any resemblance of the events, names, personalities, places, or organizations in this story to actual names or events is coincidence.

chapter 31

ぼくを包む月の光

BOKU WO TSUTSUMU TSUKI NO HIKARI

Memories of the cap #11

YOU ONLY STAYED ONE NIGHT ...

I had to leave for work this morning. Forgive me, Kachiko.

...THAT'S MEAN, DAD.

So this is what I see when I wake up.

...

...

...YOU SAID YOU'D DO SOMETHING...

BUT WHAT WILL YOU DO?

Hiwatari's Endless Chattering

1

Hello. ♥ I'm Hiwatari Saki. I'm happy to see you again.

So, how have you all been doing? These certainly have been interesting times...

As for me, well, I've haven't been able to play any games... (cries).

I wrote about this in volumes 5 and 6 as well, but I've had a lot of changes going on. I've needed a new tempo for my life, and part of that is because I was spending all my time playing games. Sigh.

...Oh well, I'm an adult, and I've wanted some time set aside just for myself, so even though this should be obvious, maybe it's not... (laughs)

This time's theme is "Time."

...SEE, YOU'RE DOING IT AGAIN.

THAT'S A BAD HABIT.

IT'S THAT "I'M GOING TO DO SOMETHING" LOOK, BUT

SHOULDN'T ...THE TWO OF US DO SOMETHING TOGETHER?

RIGHT?

SEE, RIN-KUN...

I HAD BEEN THINKING...

ABOUT HOW A LONG TIME AGO...

IT WAS... ERM... REEEE-AALLLY... HARD FOR ME...

TO TRY... TO STOP YOU...

YOU'VE GROWN UP IN REGARDS TO THIS, HAVEN'T YOU?

YOU'RE YOUNG JUST LIKE YOU WERE BACK THEN, BUT...

...WHAT'S WITH THAT KIND OF PRESSURE?

WITH THE TWO OF YOU RUNNING AWAY WITH THIS

I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'M SUPPOSED TO DO!

HUH?

DON'T TRY TO KEEP ME FROM GETTING INVOLVED ANYMORE, OKAY...?!

REN... IS BOTH YOURS AND MY CHILD.

LET'S PROMISE TO STOP HIM TOGETHER, ALL RIGHT...?!

WHAT I'M WORRIED ABOUT IS

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF YOU YOURSELF GET SUCKED BACK INTO THAT TIME...!!

.. GOT IT.

I HAD YOU THERE FOR ME.

IF YOU HADN'T STOPPED ME,

BECAUSE BACK THEN,

...BUT THIS WILL BE REALLY DIFFICULT...

I THINK WE'RE GOING TOO EASY ON HIM

AS HIS PARENTS... IT'S TOO LUKEWARM.

AND YOU WERE THE BREAKS. ...SPEAKING FROM EXPE-RIENCE,

BACK THEN, SHION WAS LIKE THE AXEL TO ME,

I PROBABLY WOULD HAVE GONE THROUGH WITH IT

STRAIGHT TO THE END.

?!

WHAT? BUT HE'S GOT KACHIKO-CHAN!

...YOU DIDN'T KNOW THAT REN'S ALWAYS LIKED KACHIKO-CHAN?

ANGELS 17

He's just a kid.

Well, I was just 7, too.

IF YOU HAD TO PICK ONE...

...BESIDES, DOESN'T KACHI-KO-CHAN LEAN MORE TOWARDS LALE?

THAT CAN'T BE DETER-MINED FOR SURE, AND IT'S A DAN-GEROUS LINE TO GO ON...

FLY

WHEN OTHERS INTERFERE, A PERSON'S WORLD GETS A SPREADING FEVER.

SO YOU COULD SAY IT'S BEST TO HAVE SOMEONE OUTSIDE OF ONE'S OWN FAMILY

ACT AS A VECTOR.

FOR SHION, THAT WAS MOKUREN. FOR ME, THAT WAS YOU.

DO YOU GET IT?

—!

OCCHAN, OBASAN, GOOOOD MORNIN'!

YOU!

IT— IT SURE IS—!

GOOD WEATHER FOR SURE!!

YEAH, THE WEATHER SURE IS NICE, HUH, KACHI-KOOOO!

Ahahahah

...REN?

CREAK.

110

SWISH

SO... I'M GONNA GO NOW, BYE.

YOU'RE STAYIN' HOME TODAY, HUH...

SWISH

. .KACHIKO!!

TELL ME SO I CAN UNDER-STAND...!

ENOUGH OF WHAT?

IS HE STAYING HOME TODAY? HE'S NOT WITH YOU, HUH?

HOW'S REN DOING? IS HE ALL RIGHT?

CAPU-TSU~~~N, I'VE HAD ENOUGH ALREADY ~~~

STUFF I WANT TO SAY, BUT CAN'T SAY NO MATTER WHAT.

STARING OFF INTO THE DISTANCE.

Wind hissing

WHAT KIND OF LIMITS?

BUT THERE ARE LIMITS...

YOU SAY YOU'LL UNDER-STAND...

Shakes Shakes

...AND YOU DON'T REALLY LISTEN TO THIS STUFF, D'YA?

IT'S OUTRA-GEOUS!

SUCH AS?

... COME ON.

SUCH AS?

I AM PREPARED TO LISTEN SERIOUSLY TO ANY OUTRAGEOUS THING.

IF IT HAS ANYTHING TO DO WITH REN,

NO.

...RIGHT NOW...

I'M PREPARED TO BELIEVE IT...

Well, just to make sure

IF YOU WERE TO SHOW ME REAL TELEPORTATION,

FOR EXAMPLE, WITH YOU...

THAT'S WHY...

UP HERE

!

KA...

KACHIKO?!

NGELS
07☆

NGELS
07☆

Squeals
squeals
Squeals
NGELS
07☆

...AND? WHAT DID YOU NEED TO TELL ME?

AHEM

...THAT'S REMARKABLE.

HUH?

WELL... YES, I GUESS.

WHAT...?

THAT'S IT? YOU'RE NOT GOING TO SAY ANYTHING ANYMORE?

YEAH... YOU'RE PRETTY UNIQUE.

Whimpers

HUH?!

I HAD ALWAYS THOUGHT THAT IF I SHOWED YOU, YOU'D DEFINITELY REJECT ME...

I-

I'M FAR MORE SHOCKED THAT THIS MADE YOU CRY!!

YA' CAUGHT ME OFF GUARD, CAPUTSUN.

WAAAAAAAAAA

AHAHAHA...

DRIPS
DRIPS
aah' aa Waa
CHECKS
CHECKS
Waaaaaaaa~
REACHES.
Uh...
...Uu
Uwaaaaa
aaahhhhh.
Rubs
Rubs

Waaaaaa aaahhh

AND HIS GIRL-FRIEND WAS THE PRETTY LADY, WHO IS REN'S MOM'S PAST SELF?

IKEMEN IS OJISAN'S PAST SELF?

—HUH?

HANG ON, LET ME GET THIS STRAIGHT.

Past selves

Ikemen

Occhan

Pretty Lady

Obasan

Ren

LET'S MAKE A CHART.

GLARES

PAST LIVES ARE REAL?

DIDNT CHA' SAY THAT IF IT HAD TO DO WITH REN,

YOU'D BELIEVE ANYTHING!!

CAMEL TROPHY

REN DID PSYCHOMETRY ON OCCHAN'S CAP,

BUT THE MEMORIES FROM BACK THEN WERE REALLY BAD.

...AND?

ER—FOR NOW I'M JUST LISTENING.

WELL, SAYING YOU'LL BELIEVE SOMETHING AND...

DON'T SPIT OUT LINES LIKE THAT AT A TIME LIKE THIS!!

CAMEL
TROPHY

IT SEEMS THAT HE TRIED TO DO WHATEVER HE THOUGHT IKEMEN WOULD DO.

RIN-OCCHAN WAS ALL WRAPPED UP IN IKEMEN'S MEMORIES.

I HEARD THAT BACK THEN,

IT SEEMS HE TRIED TO PLOT SOME THINGS AT TOKYO TOWER.

WHEN OCCHAN WAS 7-YEARS-OLD,

AND... DO WHAT?

FROM BACK WHEN?

PLOT? ...PLOT WHAT?

TOKYO TOWER ...?

BUT I COULD ONLY CATCH THE ROUGH OUTLINE.

HE GAVE ME A VISION THAT EXPLAINED A LOT,

ASKING DADDY ABOUT IT HELPED, THOUGH.

THAT PART I'M NOT SO CLEAR ON...

THIS IS SOMETHIN' WE HEARD FROM MADOKA.

BUT AT TOKYO TOWER A LONG TIME AGO,

THERE WAS AN EXPLOSION OR SOMETHIN'.

THEY COULDN'T FIND ANY DYNAMITE OR ANYTHING, SO THEY JUST LEFT IT AS A MYSTERY.

THE EXPLOSIONS WERE WHAT OJISAN WAS PLOTTING?

I DUNNO.

REN SAID OCCHAN HAD FAILED AT SOMETHIN',

SO IF THAT'S SO,

HE MIGHT BE THINKIN' HE'LL FINISH IT HIMSELF.

SO WHEN HE WAS TRYING TO GO HIGHER THAN THE SPECIAL OBSERVATORY,

THAT WAS...

THAT'S RIGHT.

THAT GUY, MINE-OCCHAN, HAD SAID

HE HAD BEEN DOING PSYCHOMETRY ON THE TOWER ITSELF...

RIGHT.

HE HAD TO FIND OUT EXACTLY WHAT... ERM... THAT IKEMEN PERSON'S GOAL WAS...

SO... IN ORDER TO FIND OUT WHAT TO DO...

HE'S FROM THE MOON.

IKEMEN... WHERE IS HE FROM? ANOTHER COUNTRY?

THE MOON.

THE MOON.

WHAT? THE...

ANGELS 07

WHERE D'YA THINK YOU'RE GOING?

SCOOTS SCOOTS SCOOTS

THAT'S JUST TOO OUTRA-GEOUS.

HUH?

WHA ...

STANDS

SO IN THE END YOU ONLY WENT THAT FAR?

NNNNNN?!

ANGELS ☆07☆

THIS MORN-ING...

OCCHAN AND OBASAN WERE TALKING...

IN ORDER TO BRING REN BACK,

THEY NEED SOMEONE ELSE AS A KEY MAN.

AT THAT TIME,

THE FIRST PERSON WHO CAME TO MY MIND WAS YOU, CAPUTSUN.

REN WOULD DEFINITELY LISTEN TO WHAT YOU HAVE TO SAY.

HE'S BOUND TO TRUST YOU MORE THAN ANY-ONE ELSE.

ANYWAY, I'M NOT HIDING ANYTHING ELSE.

I NEED YOUR HELP, CAPUTSUN.

PLEASE HELP ME AND REN.

OF COURSE. DEFINITELY!!

.. SORRY, I JUST...

IT'S IN MY NATURE.

I NEVER SAID ANYTHING ABOUT NOT HELPING!

I KNOW,

AND I LIKE IT——

THAT KIND OF NATURE.

...SO?

WHAT SHOULD I DO?

I FEEL LIKE HE'D PROBABLY KNOW EVERYTHING.

WELL... THERE'S SOMEONE I WANNA MEET.

ROGER THAT.

WE GOTTA ASK FOR H'S CONTACT INFORMATION FROM HARU-CHAN,

OR HAVE HIM INTRODUCE US,

OR WE MIGHT AS WELL HAVE HIM GO WITH US.

SOMEONE MY DADDY KNOWS

NAMED TAMURA.

...

DID SOMETHING GOOD HAPPEN THAT I DON'T KNOW ABOUT?

FOUND FACED DOG

S-KUN CAME TO SEE MIKAGE...

PING PONG

PING PONG

YOU SEEM PRETTY CHIPPER TODAY,

MIKA-GE!!

HE CAME.

YES, THAT'S RIGHT.

BUT JUST FOR MIKAGE,

HUH?

THAT'S STRANGE, WASN'T REN ABSENT TODAY?

I'M PRETTY SURE...

HEHHH... WHERE'D YOU SEE HIM?

Entry Forbidden

HUH?

YOU'RE NOT ALLOWED TO GO UP THERE, MIKAGE.

Er, that's...

S-KUN...

...IT SEEMED LIKE HE HAD FEATHERED WINGS...

HE WAS LIKE AN ANGEL FLYING DOWN TO MIKAGE,

AND WHIS-PERING SOFTLY IN MIKAGE'S EARS...

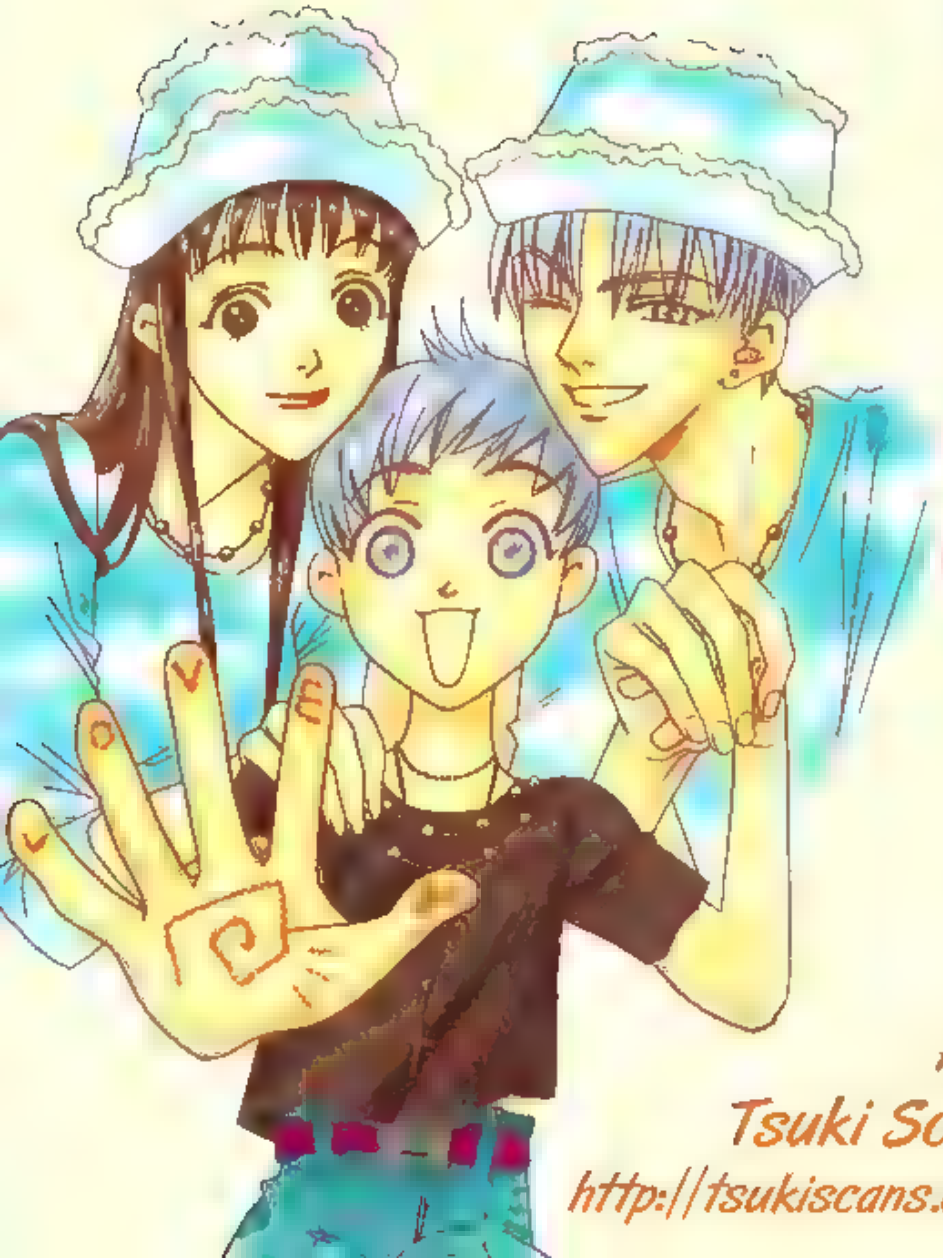
AND WITH GLITTERING STRANGE EYES...

HE LOOKED... STRAIGHT... AT MIKAGE.

"IF YOU DO AS I TELL YOU,"

"HOW ABOUT I GIVE YOU A WONDERFUL REWARD?"

...HE SAID.



Boku wo Tsutsumu Tsuki no Hikari

Embraced by the moonlight

By Saki Hiwatari V07 ch31

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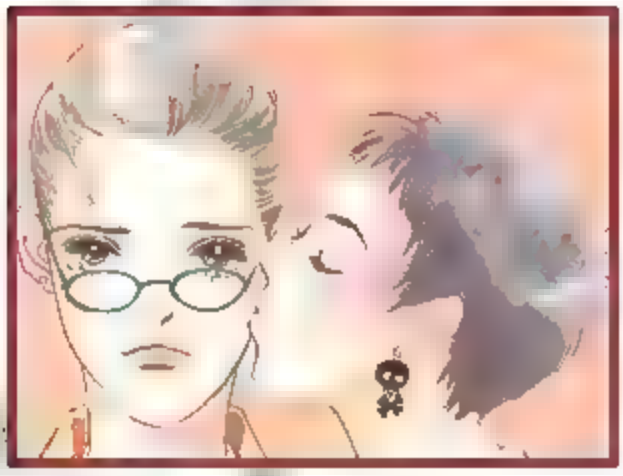

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Chapter 32

Memories of the Cap #12

Same as always

GEEEEZ, YOU CAN'T COUNT ON THIS GUY AT ALL.

HARU-CHAN, WHAT'RE YOU DOIN'?

N-NO,

IT SEEMS WE'VE ASKED A LOT OF YOU... I'M SORRY.

UM .. ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

SORRY, I WAS JUST THINKING A LITTLE...

I'M FINE.

IT'S NOTHING... HATAKE-KUN... WAS IT?

I...

HURRY UP!!

So I say.

HARU-CHAN.

WHO WILL BUY IT?

AHH— I WANT SOME ICE-CREAM.

Hiwatari's Endless Chattering

2

There's just not enough time
There's totally not enough time!

I'm not very fast at doing my work, so I have to make sure I give myself a lot of time for it And then I need time with the pets I live with and the family I don't live with, and that makes me feel like there's no time left for myself 24 hours in a day isn't really enough!

"I'm busy" has always been one of my go-to phrases, but now I really think that's true

However, it suddenly dawned on me that in the past I had time to play video games! Huh? Was my past self really that busy? That seems like total leisure to me now

At which, I
It was only thirty or forty minutes ago that Kachiko-chan said
TELL ME THE ADDRESS FOR THAT OCCHAN NAMED TAMURA KAZUTO
REN HASN'T CHANGED SINCE THEN...
...WHA... WHY?!
HE'S ALREADY TAKEN THREE DAYS OFF FROM SCHOOL.
WE HAD A HALF-DAY TODAY SO WE HURRIED OVER.
SO HE SAID TO HAVE YOU INTRO-DUCE US.
RIGHT NOW, DADDY DOESN'T HAVE HIS ADDRESS ON HAND,
BUT... WHY TA-MURA-SAN...?

IT'S FOR REN'S SAKE, DUH!!

N... NO, I MEAN...

WHY... WHAT WILL YOU DO WHEN YOU MEET TAMURA-SAN?

I GOT STUFF I WANT TO ASK HIM.

DADDY SAID I COULD JUST ASK YOU,

BUT IT'D REALLY BE BEST

TO ASK TAMURA-SAN!

Whispering

Ohhh! It's fine! That's all fine!!

Let's meet up, Haru-chan!! Come on over and bring the kids!

HUH?

BUT I THOUGHT I MIGHT AS WELL CALL...

IT DOESN'T REALLY MAKE SENSE TO ME,

YOU WERE PROBABLY IN THE MIDST OF DOING YOUR WORK, SO I TRIED TO REFUSE, BUT—

—AH, HELLO, TAMURA-SAN?

IT'S HARUHIKO... ACTUALLY, SO ON AND SO FORTH...

Isn't she Mikuro-kun's daughter? Aaww, I definitely want to meet her!!

At this rate,

if the topic comes up at Tamura-san's place,

It'd be one thing if it was just Kachiko-chan,

will I be made to confess my past sins in front of the kids?

but she's bringing along a boy,

who has nothing to do with this just because he's a friend.

That was Shuukai-dou's sin,

not some-thing I did!!

No, no! I'm not Shuukaidou anymore!!

I wonder if there's some-where I can dis-appear to—

Heeeeey, Haru-chaaaaan!

I'm not as cow-ardly as him!

HUH?

WHAT'RE YOU DOING, HARU-CHAN?

COME INSIDE!!

Heavy hearted

...
UH
...

HARU-CHAN, WE HAVEN'T SEEN YOU SINCE NEW YEAR'S, HOW HAVE YOU BEEN?

Pardon the intrusion.

HARU-CHAN IS HERE! SO ARE KACHI-KO-CHAN AND HER FRIEND HATAKE-KUN!

AYA-KOOO!

HUH? HUH!?!

YOU'RE KACHIKO-CHAN? MIKURO-KUN'S DAUGHTER?!

WAAH! YOU LOOK JUST LIKE HIM!!

I COULD TELL WHO SHE WAS FROM FAR AWAY.

DOESN'T SHE~~~?

Staaaaares

TAMURA-OCCHAN, YOU'VE CHANGED YOUR HAIRSTYLE, HAVE'NTCHA?

YOU SEEMED A WHOLE LOT SMARTER IN THE VISION DADDY GAVE ME OF THE PAST.

DON'T GO LETTIN' YOURSELF GO IN MID-DLE AGE.

yes. Little by little.

SHE'S THE REAL THING.

IN HIS FORTIES WITH NO DOUBTS*

WELL, GO AHEAD AND ASK ME ANYTHING.

—SO?

IT SEEMS HE'S PRETTY CLOSE WITH HARU-CHAN AND MIKURO-KUN NOW, HUH?

Heehee

DUE TO THE CIRCUM-STANCES, I DON'T SEE RIN MUCH.

OCCHAN, DO YOU KNOW REN AT ALL?

WELL, WELL, WELL, THE TIMES SURE DO CHANGE, HM?

PROOF THAT HE'S STILL YOUNG!

WHAT'S THE MATTER, HATAKE-KUN?

SORRY, I'M PROBABLY BORING YOU.

AH... NO...

WELL, I MIGHT HAVE SEEN HIM TWICE WHEN HE WAS A BABY?

T/N. This is not very important but it's relevant that there's a Confucian saying that works for Tamura here which Hiwatari is likely referring to: "At forty one has no doubts."

...I'M WORRIED ABOUT MY FRIEND REN.

EVEN TO HAVE COME HERE WITH KACHIKO...

...IT'S ONE THING TO COME,

BUT I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN KEEP UP WITH THE CONVERSA-TION... SO...

IT'S A LITTLE...

SWIFTLY

OH, IS THAT IT? THAT'S FINE, THAT'S FINE.

AH! UM, I...

ACTUALLY, I'M...

A REALIST

...YOU COULD SAY...

LOOK AT ME. A LONG TIME AGO I WAS AN ACTIVE REALIST-RATIONALIST, TOO.

I TOTALLY UNDERSTAND.

YEAH. YEAH.

HE BULLIED SOMEONE I KNEW. HARU-CHAN ...

RIN PICKED A FIGHT WITH THE YOUNG MASTER, AND EVEN WORSE,

A bad feeling about this-

Ah, I've got

SEE, A LONG TIME AGO,

THERE WAS THIS HUGE CONSTRUCTION COMPANY. I WAS IN CHARGE OF THE BOSS'S SON AND A BUNCH OF OTHER YOUNG GUYS.

HARU-CHAN WAS A GOOD FRIEND,

YOU COULD SAY I WAS IN THE SAME PLACE AS HATAKE-KUN IS IN NOW.

SO I FELT LIKE I HAD TO UNDERSTAND IT AND PROTECT HIM.

WITH REN'S DAD...?!

YOU...

YOU FOUGHT?!

Hahahaha

GOT BEAT UP BLACK AND BLUE, THOUGH.

BEFORE I EVEN HAD TIME TO THINK ABOUT IT, I WAS IN A FIGHT AGAINST RIN'S ESP.

I WAS RAISED IN AN INSTITUTION, AND HAD A LITTLE BROTHER.

WHEN I WAS JUST CONCERNED WITH MOVING UP IN THE YAKUZA.

THE BOSS WAS KIND ENOUGH TO TAKE MY BROTHER AND EVERYONE ELSE IN.

I WAS ALL FIRED UP ABOUT TAKING CARE OF THE YOUNG MASTER,

THAT I GUESS YOU COULD CALL IT EXCESSIVE CARE.

BUT WHILE I WAS SO BUSY JUST CARING FOR HIM,

MY YOUNGER BROTHER COMMITTED SUICIDE.

HARU-CHAN IS LIKE A LIVING RESEMBLANCE OF MY LITTLE BROTHER.

I HAD MADE UP MY MIND THAT THIS TIME, I WOULD DEFINITELY PROTECT HIM.

BUT ONCE I STARTED RUNNING WITH IT, I GOT CARRIED AWAY.

HATAKE-KUN,

IS COMMON SENSE MORE IMPORTANT TO YOU THAN YOUR FRIENDS?

NO.

THEN YOU'RE LIKE ME.

Hahaha.

ALL RIGHT! YOU'RE A COOL OCCHAN!

Good job!

SO... AND?

WHAT DID YOU COME TO ASK?

IT'S ABOUT IKEMEN.

BEFORE I KNEW IT,

NOT BEING ABLE TO UNDERSTAND EVERYTHING WAS NO LONGER A BARRIER.

WHAT WOULD IKEMEN HAVE WANTED TO DO A LONG TIME AGO?!

Shock

I HEARD THAT HE POSSESSED RINOCCHAN,

AND WANTED TO USE TOKYO TOWER FOR SOME KIND OF PLAN...

I WANT TO KNOW

WHAT HIS GOAL WAS!!

—

RIGHT.

THAT——

26

TREMBLES

NO, I REALLY DON'T KNOW! REALLY!

I DON'T KNOW EITHER.

HE WAS TRYING TO GET RID OF WAR ON EARTH.

If they're going to find out anyway, it might as well be from me.

THE SEVEN OF US WERE ALIENS IN OUR PAST LIVES, WHO DIED ON THE MOON.

IKEMEN HAD LOST HIS FAMILY TO WAR,

AND HATED THE VERY IDEA OF WAR.

SO RIN-KUN

WAS TRYING TO WIPE OUT WAR FROM THE EARTH.

AND
EVERYONE
ELSE
HE
USED ME
TO ACCESS
THE MAIN BASE
IN ORDER TO CON-
TROL HUMANITY
HOWEVER...
HE FAILED.

And I had enough strength to see this dream through,

which that no-good Rin couldn't even turn into reality.

Going so far as to have Mokuren preach to me.

I finally attained

this just for Shion.

What's with

Shion.

...REN...?

...I BROUGHT SOME RICE-BALLS, WHY DON'T WE EAT THEM TOGETHER?

YOU HAVEN'T EATEN LUNCH YET.

NO!!

DON'T COME IN, ALICE.

IF YOU OPEN THE DOOR,

I'LL GO OUT THROUGH THE WIN-DOW.

BUT IF YOU'RE FINE WITH THAT, GO AHEAD!!

IF NOT, STAY PUT.

.....

?

...

ALICE?

. REN

YOUR MOM IS CRYING.

AS A MAN, AREN'T YOU ASHAMED?

...HMPH.

DON'T BLAME OTHERS. ISN'T IT YOUR FAULT?

IF YOU WERE MORE OF AN HONORABLE MAN,

YOU WOULDN'T HAVE MADE ALICE CRY.

ALICE, WITH YOU HERE IT'S HARD TO TALK.

WHY DON'T YOU TAKE A REST OR GO TO WORK, HUH?

I'M GOING TO HAVE A LITTLE FACE-TO-FACE TALK WITH THIS GUY.

STOPPING HIM

TREMBLES

...YOU LITTLE

Ding Dong

HURRY!!

RIN-KUN, GO!

...A GUEST...?

YOU'RE TELLING ME TO GO TO WORK IN THIS KIND OF SITUATION?! I CAN'T...!!

EVEN IF I WENT TO WORK, I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO CONCENTRATE, WOULD I?

HELLO?

...I'm... Yamanashi Mikage.

ARGH

YES, WHO IS IT?

~~~

Um... are you his father...?

Ren-kun's classmate.

CREAKS
~~~

He smells faintly of deep evil...

Ah...! This Person...!

GASPS

BEAUTIFUL...

UM... ABOUT THAT...

DO YOU HAVE SOME BUSINESS WITH REN...?

THEN, MIKAGE-CHAN, THANK YOU FOR GOING OUT OF YOUR WAY TO COME HERE TODAY...

MIKAGE IS FINE...

UM... YAMANA-SHI...SAN?

HUH?

ACTU-ALLY...

UM... I HAVE SOMETHING TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT...

ABOUT... REN-KUN AS HE IS NOW...

FOR YOU, THE FATHER...

MIKAGE CAME WITH BUSINESS...,

IT'S VERY IMPORTANT...

IT BUGS ME... SO I'LL JUST BE GONE FOR A LITTLE WHILE.

SHE SAID SHE HAS SOMETHING TO DISCUSS WITH ME ABOUT HOW REN IS NOW...

REN'S CLASSMATE.

WHAT?

ALICE.

I'M... GOING OUT FOR A LITTLE WHILE.

WHAT?! INVITE HER IN.

I WANT TO HEAR, TOO.

NO, SHE ONLY WANTS ME.

SHE WANTS ME TO GO WITH HER.

BUT... WHO WAS THAT?

I DON'T KNOW

SO I'LL BE RIGHT BACK.

WHAT... DOES THAT MEAN?

UFU

THANKS FOR WAITING. SHALL WE GO?

SHUTS

...A DATE...

ALICE

REN!!

HUH?
...
AH
...!!

I GOT HUNGRY.

THESE ONIGIRI ARE TASTY, ALICE!

Munch

Munch

JUST NOW...

YOUR CLASSMATE CAME.

SAY, REN.

THAT ACTUALLY WHEN RIN-KUN ISN'T HERE, I CAN TALK WITH HIM.

IT MIGHT BE THE REVERSE,

I THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE MOE-CHAN, BUT IT WAS A DIFFERENT GIRL.

IT SEEMS THEY JUST LEFT, THOUGH...

SHE WAS WORRIED ABOUT YOU AND CAME TO TALK TO YOUR DAD...

HOW DID YOU KNOW

THAT IT WAS HER?

BECAUSE I ASKED HER TO COME.

YUP.

A GIRL NAMED YAMANA-SHI MIKAGE.

AFTER ALL,

HUH?

I WANTED THAT GUY TO GET AWAY FROM YOU.

HE WAS SOOO CLOSE TO YOU THIS WHOLE TIME.

I'VE GOT SOMETHING IMPORTANT

I WANT TO TALK ABOUT

WITH YOU.

...WHAT?

TO PUT IT CLEARLY,

I'D LIKE YOUR ASSISTANCE.

JUST A LITTLE.

...TELL ME...?

BUT HIS PLAN FAILED BECAUSE THE COMPUTERS ON THE BASE

THAT GUY WAS ABLE TO ACCESS THE MOON BASE, ALL RIGHT.

WERE ALL OVER-RUN WITH PLANTS AND COULDN'T FUNCTION, RIGHT?

SO WITH MY PLAN,

I SHOULD BE ABLE TO TAKE CARE OF THAT.

AFTER ALL,

I MIGHT BE

A KICHES.

IF WE HAD JUST THOUGHT ABOUT IT A LITTLE MORE

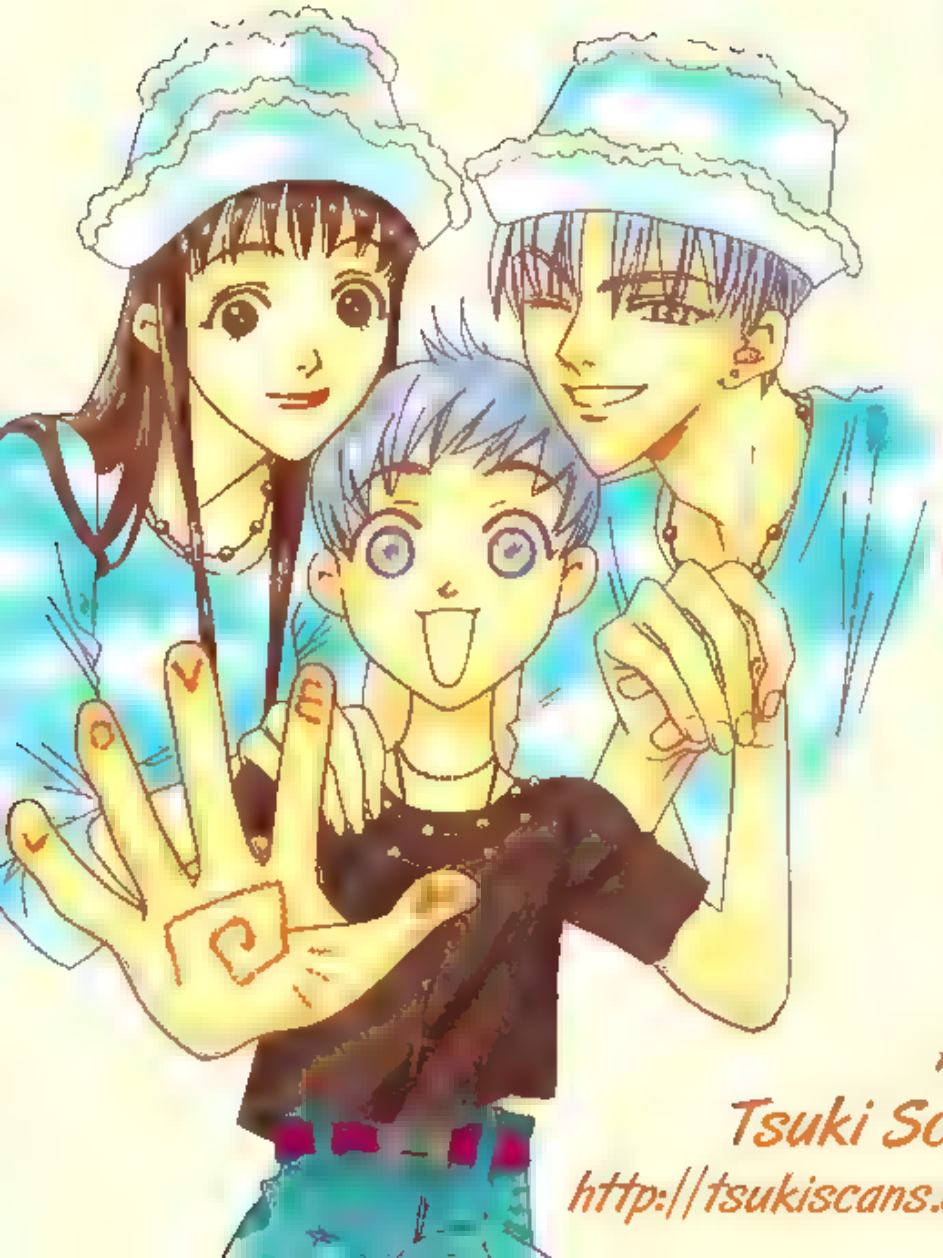
IT WOULD HAVE BEEN CLEAR TO HIM, THAT IDIOT.

I'M CERTAIN

THAT THERE HAD TO HAVE BEEN A SONG... TO MAKE ALL THE PLANTS WITHER AWAY.

TEACH IT TO ME, ALICE.

THE BLACK HYMN.



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Embraced by the moonlight

By Saki Hiwatari V07 ch32

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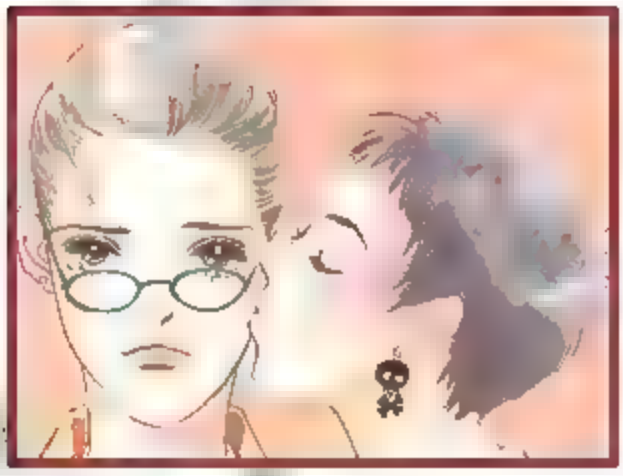

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Chapter 33

Memories of the Cat #13

AT SOME POINT,

I HAD A DREAM WITH REN'S CAT, HYAA, IN IT.

HE TOLD ME HE'D GIVE ME AN ACORN,

IT'S NOW CAPUTSUN'S TREASURE.

AND THEN A FEW DAYS LATER,

IT WAS REALLY THERE ON MY DESK.

HUH?!

THIS HYAA HAD FOUR DOTS ON ITS FOREHEAD. —WELL, ANYWAY,

WHAT! DON'T REACT BY SAYING THAT WHAT I SAY IS OUTRAGEOUS!

HUUH?

...YEAH.

SHE MUST HAVE TAKEN HYAA'S FORM SO SHE WOULDN'T STARTLE YOU, HUH?!

THAT WAS THE PRETTY LADY!!

DURING WHICH TIME, THERE WAS A WEDDING BETWEEN COWORKERS.

SEVEN SCIENTISTS FROM ANOTHER PLANET WERE LIVING ON THE MOON.

FOR SOME REASON, THEY'RE IN JAPANESE GARB.

THOSE TWO ARE CURRENTLY REN'S GUARDIAN ANGELS...

THE PRETTY LADY WHO HAD FOUR DOTS ON HER FOREHEAD...

THEY WERE REN'S PARENTS' PAST LIVES.

TODAY,

WHILE LISTENING TO HARUHIKO-SAN AND TAMURA-SAN,

I HAD THOUGHT SO, TOO...

Hiwatari's Endless Chattering

3

I've realized that when people don't have leisure time just for themselves, then they are most definitely "busy" People who work 18 hours a day are of course busy, but even people who only work 18 hours a month, if they do not get any satisfying time to themselves, will also say they are "busy" In other words, they complain that they have to spend all their time doing things for others and just taking care of their own necessities

Since I like to play video games, when I'm set on playing them but have to get to work, I think "There's not enough time! I just want to play~!" and then I say that I'm "busy" But that's not a matter of not having time, it's that there's too much I want to do

VIA THE MOON BASE FROM TOKYO TOWER...

IS ACTUALLY PRETTY MIND BLOWING.

...BUT THE WHOLE THING ABOUT IKEMEN HATING WAR

AND TRYING TO CONTROL HUMANITY

WHAT-EVER.

I'LL ASK DADDY ABOUT IT.

YEAH, BUT THAT'S OLD NEWS.

WHAT I WANT TO KNOW IS HOW TO MAKE REN GO BACK TO BEING REN!

THAT'S WHAT'S CRUCIAL HERE!!

HUH? WEREN'T YOU THE ONE WHO WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT IT?!

I FIGURED I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT THAT ONCE I HEARD ABOUT IT.

THEN HOW?!

UH... AH... WELL...

I'M STILL THINKING.

...AW, MAN.

HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN THAT WAY?

...HEY, KACHI-KO.

YOU'RE LIKE REN'S MEDIATOR.

...BUT ...

IF IT'S JUST A MATTER OF MAKING HIM RETURN

TO HIS TRUE CHARACTER, IT'S NOT IM-POSSIBLE

...I THINK...

...THAT'S ALL?

IT'S 'CAUSE WE'RE CHILDHOOD FRIENDS.

...AND THEN?

THAT'D BE WEIRD.

YOU MEAN LIKE A LITTLE BROTHER?

YOU SAID, "HELP ME AND REN." BEFORE.

NO... IT'S JUST THAT YOU WERE REALLY DESPERATE, SO...

AND THEN... WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO SAY?

PERHAPS,

DUH...

...

IT'S NO USE, 'CAUSE WE'RE JUST FRIENDS!

YOU'RE STILL TALKING ABOUT WEIRD STUFF?

...HM?

...HEY, CAPUTSUN, TAKE A LOOK...

HM?

RIN-OCCHAN AND SOMEONE WITH HIM...

AHH, IT REALLY IS... MIKAGE?

HUUUUUUH?!

WHAT'S OCCHAN DOING WITH MIKAGE WHEN REN'S NOT AROUND?!

It makes me really irritated!

AND THEY'RE EATING ICE-CREAM!

WHATEVER'S FINE, BUT,

I'VE ALREADY TREATED YOU TO CAKE AND TEA,

WOW.

ISN'T IT ABOUT TIME YOU TELL ME?

AND NOW MY POCKETS ARE EMPTY.

Dark

AURA OF DARKNESS

Dark

MIKAGE-CHAN.

FROM MIKAGE'S VIEW.

WON'T YOU TELL ME?

AND HOW DO YOU KNOW IT?

WHAT'S REN'S SECRET?

S...?

MIKAGE CALLS HIM S-KUN.

HM.

Dark

...HA!

WHAT'S WITH CALLING HIMSELF S!!

ISN'T ACTUALLY YELLING.

S-KUN IS WONDERFUL. HE SMELLS OF DANGER.

MIKAGE WAS VERY SURPRISED WITH HOW DEEPLY YOU SMELLED OF DANGER...

BUT S-KUN'S FATHER IS EVEN MORE WONDERFUL.

OJISAMA, CAN YOU MEET WITH ME

LIKE THIS FROM NOW ON?

IF SO, IT SHOULD BE FINE TO GIVE THIS TO YOU...

S-KUN'S LETTER...

...A LETTER?

STILL FROM MIKAGE'S VIEW

AH!

MIKA-GEEE!!!

GYAAAAAA!?

A LETTER? FOR ME? FROM REN?

NO, FROM S-KUN.

EEEE!! SCAAARY!

WHOA, HEY, KA-CHIKO...

WHAT'RE YOU DOIN' HERE WITH RIN-OCCHAN?

..

!!

STOP IT, KA-CHIKO. YOU'LL SCARE MIKAGE.

TERU? SO YOU WERE HERE?

DON'T, KACHIKO!!

WELL... MIKAGE WAS ON A DATE WITH REN'S FATHER...

MIKAGE, DON'T DO THIS ANY-MORE, SUDDENLY DISAPPEARING ON ME LIKE THAT.

AND YOU'RE MAKING OUR PIANO TEACHER WAIT IN VAIN.

...MIKAGE, YOU'RE ALWAYS GETTING CRUSHES ON EVIL THINGS.

Stares

HUH? REN'S FATHER?

MIKAGE CAMERA: OFF

HM?

BUT... IT HAD TO BE RIGHT NOW.

S-KUN... SPECIFIED THIS DAY AND TIME AND ASKED ME TO...

CRINKLES

S-KUN ENTRUSTED ME WITH THIS... HERE YOU GO.

WHAT IS IT?

...CHE.

To Good-for-Nothing Rin, I see an idiot.

Ooh~

I wanna see

To Good-for-Nothing Rin,

I had instructed Mikage to accompany you around. You didn't have a job to get to anyway and you were staying too close to Alice.

I see an idiot.

I don't want you getting involved,

If you're reading this, it means this has been a great success.

so just stay away for a little while.

How are you?

Alice and I should be all alone together.

That means she'll be taking her time to teach me.

Right now, thanks to you,

But of course,

You're wondering what I'm learning?

CRUNCHES

It's the Black Hymn.

HUH?! ...RIGHT!

HUH—— WHAT?! WHAT HAPPENED?!

HEY! AH— SEE YA, TERU AND MIKAGE!

AND CAPUTSUN, UH...

I'M GOING.

I'M GOING TOO, KACHIKO!

—!

LET'S GO HOME, KACHIKO...!

When Mokuren confessed that she had gotten the virus,

All you need to do is transmit the Black Hymn to the base.

she also spilled the national secret to Shion.

How pitiful. She figured that everything would come to an end.

So how about talking about how we weed those meddling plants.

It seems you're an idiot for not having realized this.

You were able to access the moon base all right,

but if you had only removed those meddling plants,

Actually,

you should have been able to remotely control the base's facilities.

the way to do it is simple.

Right?

Isn't that so?

At any rate,

After some time passed, it would become possible to put the Black Hymn strategy into effect.

But at the same time,

there was one hope left that would outlast that generation.

Kiche beeeam!

what's this on my forehead?

Moreover, the one

is just a kid...!!!

who is about to expose his parents

He's doing something like me.

But unlike before, everything's going according to his plan.

RIN-KU... N...

ALICE?!

—ALICE!!

ALICE...!

SOMETHING ABOUT TEACHING HIM TO SING THE BLACK HYMN...

DID REN SAY SOMETHING TO YOU?!

WHAT HAP-PENED?

...YES...

WHAT'S THE MATTER... ARE YOU OKAY?!

HOW DID IT GET LIKE THIS...?

...AAH... GEEZ...

READS.

MAYBE I WAS WRONG TO TRY TO TEACH HIM THE KISANADO...?

I GOT A LETTER FROM REN, BUT I CRUMBLED IT UP.

...HOW DID YOU KNOW...?

YEAH...

YOU'RE RIGHT... GOT IT

PERSUASIVE

AFTER THAT, YOU CAN CRY AS MUCH AS YOU WANT.

BEFORE YOU START CRYING, AT LEAST EXPLAIN TO ME WHAT HAPPENED.

ALICE, CALM DOWN.

REN ASKED ME TO TEACH HIM THE BLACK HYMN,

...YES.

BUT

I COULDN'T UNDERSTAND

WHY RIGHT AWAY.

BUT REN KEPT ASKING AND ASKING,

'THE BLACK HYMN, THE BLACK HYMN'.

EVEN THOUGH REN HAD JUST EATEN SOME RICE BALLS.

AND EAT THEM TOGETHER,

FOR SOME REASON, I SAID WE SHOULD MAKE PAN-CAKES

BUT REN WAS SMILING AND TELLING ME IT WAS FINE.

AND THOUGHT HE WAS JUST BEING A SPOILED BRAT,

I SAID NO,

STARTED SINGING.

BUT THEN HE SUDDENLY

'YOU HAVEN'T EVEN LEARNED THE BASICS OF THE KISANADO,

THERE'S NO WAY I COULD TEACH YOU THAT' I SAID,

IT WAS THE KISANADO.

MORE CORRECTLY THAN HE EVER HAD UP UNTIL NOW.

HE HAD GOTTEN ALL OF THE LYRICS AND PRONUNCIATION CORRECT.

HE HAD MEMORIZED EVERYTHING HE HAD BEEN TAUGHT,

AND THE KICHE APPEARED ON HIS FOREHEAD.

...WHAT?

TAKE A LOOK IN THAT ROOM.

HURRY!

CREAKS

Whoosh

EEEEEEE EEEEEEE EEEEK!

RIN-KUN!! ARE YOU OKAY?!

TREMBLES TREMBLES

Shock

I'M OKAY NOW.

...

RIGHT.

...AH!

...AH. IT JUST FELT TOO FAMILIAR...

...SO THAT WAS ALL FROM REN SINGING?

CONDITIONED RESPONSE

BUT WHEN HE BECOMES AN ADULT HE MIGHT BE AT MOKUREN'S LEVEL...

IT'S FINE THAT IT WAS CONTAINED TO JUST ONE ROOM THIS TIME,

...YES.

I THINK HE MIGHT BE EVEN BETTER THAN ME.

WILL I EVEN BE ABLE . TO RAISE HIM WELL...?

FOR THE FIRST TIME, I'M FINDING OUT HOW MODE* FELT AND IT'S TERRIBLE.

ALL OF A SUDDEN IT'S L KE I CAN'T BE HIS MOTHER ANYMORE...

AT THIS RATE, REN WON'T GO BACK TO NORMA..

IF HE GROWS UP LIKE THAT...

WHAT SHOULD WE DO, RIN-KUN? I HAVE NO WILL-POWER...

*T/N. Mode was Mokuren's assistant while she lived in "Paradise" and after

.. I'M SORRY FOR CRYING...

I GET IT AND ALL,

BUT I HAVEN'T GOT ANY KIDS EXCEPT WITH YOU.

ARE YOU LISTENING?

I'M ONLY GOING TO SAY THIS ONCE.

STRAIGHT FACED.

YOU'RE MY LIFE, AND I LIKELY WON'T LEAVE YOU UNTIL I DIE.

WITH ANYONE OTHER THAN YOU.

I HAVEN'T EVEN THOUGHT OF HAVING ANY CHILDREN

IT'S A JOKE!

LET'S GO WITH SAKURA.

MOKUREN'S NOT HERE, SO MAYBE SAKURA?

SO IF YOU CAN'T BE HIS MOTHER, WHO ELSE CAN I COUNT ON?

Squirms.

...KACHI-KO....

I'M REN'S MOTHER.

I DIDN'T MEAN IT.

I WAS JUST BEING A LITTLE FAINT-HEARTED ...!!

AH... RIGHT...

...AND ...REN?

UM...

yeeeah. they sure do seem lovey dovey

are ren's parents always like this?

IT'S ALL RIGHT.

IT'S ALL RIGHT.

HIS MOTHER FAINTED IN FRONT OF HIM?

MAYBE BECAUSE AFTER SEEING EVERYTHING HE HAD DONE,

HAVE GIVEN HIM A SHOCK...

IT MIGHT

WHA...!

ARE YOU REALLY OKAY?!

WHEN I WOKE UP, REN WASN'T THERE...

YEAH, I'M FINE... BUT...

TO BE HONEST, I...

I LOOKED INSIDE, AND IT SEEMS I FAINTED.

AFTER I WENT TO GO SEE THE CONDITION OF THE PLANTS,

WHEN I WOKE UP,

I WAS FRANTICALLY TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHERE HE WAS,

AND FIGURED OUT THAT HE WAS BACK IN HIS ROOM.

IT SEEMS LIKE THE DOOR IS LOCKED...

AND HE WON'T OPEN IT...

AND HE'S BEEN QUIET.

STILL, ONCE I KNEW THAT HE WAS IN THERE,

I WAS RELIEVED, AND KIND OF GAVE OUT...

THAT'S WHEN YOU CAME IN...

WHAT?!

...AH... HOW LONG HAVE YOU TWO BEEN THERE?

GETS UP

WE..., ENOUGH WITH THAT.

MORE IMPOR-TANTLY ...

—AH!

HUH?! YOU WERE HERE?!

HM?

HI .. PARDON THE IN-TRUSION.

.YA KNOW~~~?

TO REN'S ROOM!

OCCHAN, YOU'RE GOIN' IN, AREN'TCHA?

WE'RE GOIN' TOO!

THE DOOR IS LOCKED, SO I'LL PROBABLY HAVE TO BREAK MY WAY THROUGH.

WHY?!

I'M GOING IN ALONE

THEY SAW

NOPE.

THEY HEARD

I SHOWED HIM, TOO!!

IT'S FINE WITH CAPU-TSUN, HE KNOWS ABOUT IT!!

YOU MEAN WITH TELE-PORTATION, RIGHT?!

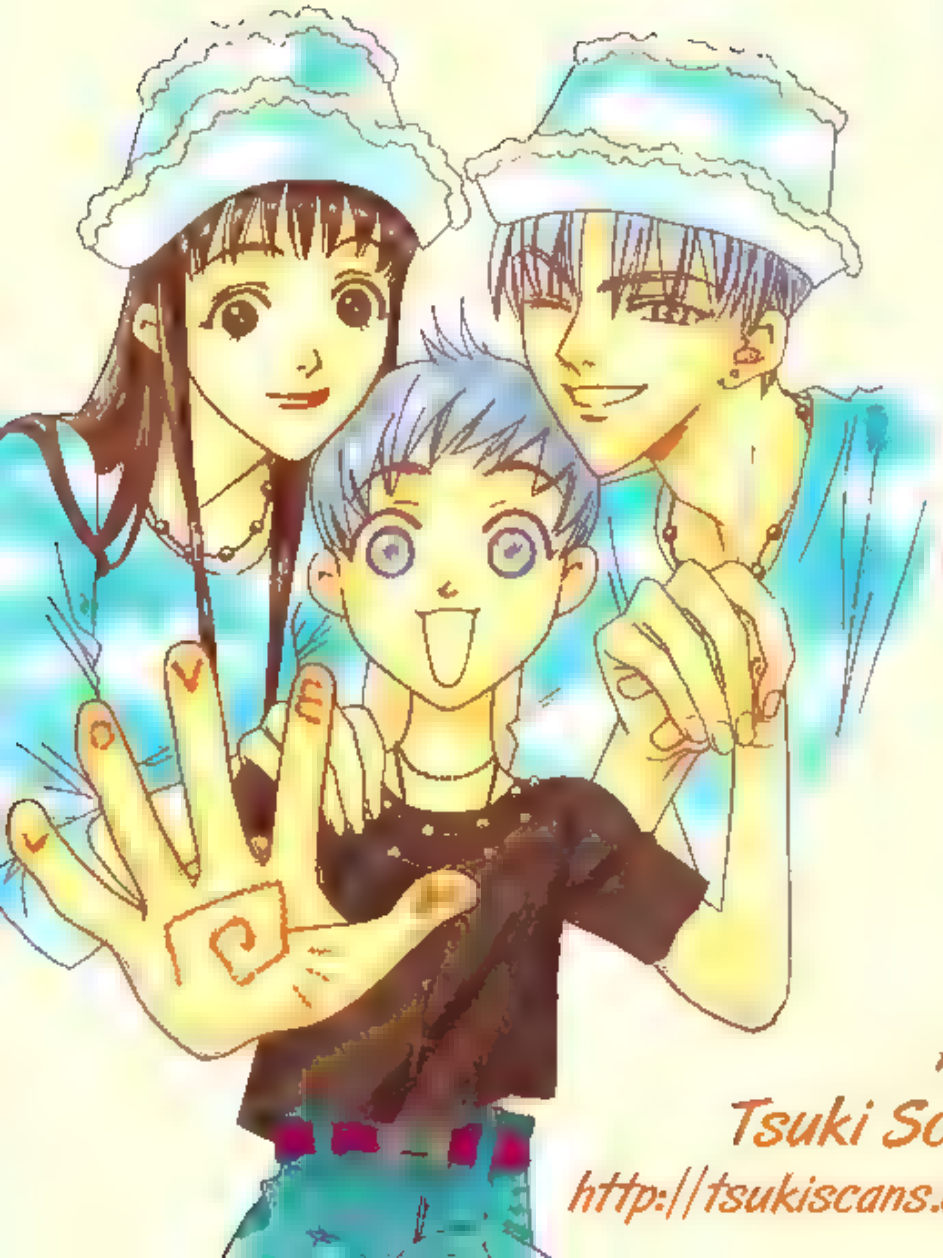
...SURE .. THANKS.

OJISAN, I WON'T GET IN THE WAY.

CAN I AT LEAST LISTEN OUTSIDE THE DOOR?

HMM.

LET'S GO...



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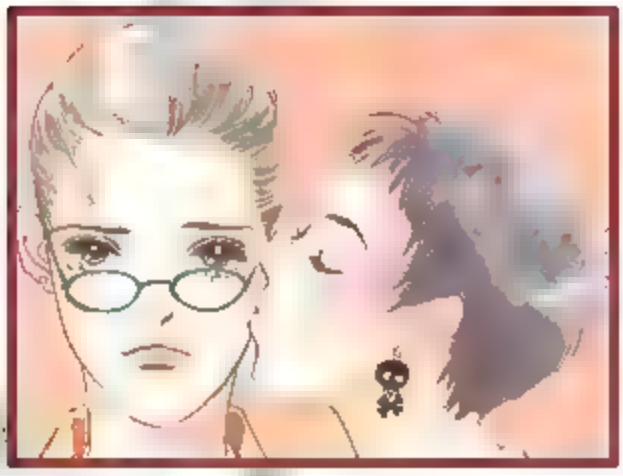

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chapter 34

Memories of the Cap #14

YOU CAN WAIT HERE, KACHIKO.

AH— NO...

LET'S TELE-PORT!!

ALL RIGHT!

Hmph!

CLINK

YOU REALLY CAN'T OPEN IT.

...YUP.

Just you wait, Ren!

THE FATHER IS SUPPOSED TO GO IN ALONE FIRST.

NORMALLY AT TIMES LIKE THESE,

I promise.

YOU THINK I WON'T BE ABLE TO HELP?!

WHAT?

WHY'S THAT?!

Hiwatari's Endless Chattering

4

Right now, my leisure time is in fragmented small pieces, so my priorities have changed. Speaking of, because there is so much I want to do, I still find myself saying that I'm "busy." But lately I've started saying "well, whatever." Life sure is mysterious.

Rather than "time just for me," there seems to be more "time made for others." It's kind of like, well, even the advantages and disadvantages themselves are annoying. I'm tired of those feelings bugging me, so I've gotten to the point where I just don't care.

That's what it is. I don't want to make myself feel "unsatisfied."

HOW ABOUT THIS, KACHIKO--
IF ANYTHING HAPPENS YOU COME AND CHECK ON US.
IT'S JUST REN.
..RIN-KUN... JUST BE CAREFUL...
AND IF YOU THINK IT'S ANYTHING BAD...
HMM.. YEAH..., YOU SHOULD CALL HARU OVER FIRST.
YEAH.
WHY DON'T YOU DO THAT, ALICE, JUST IN CASE!!
HUUUUH? HARU-CHAN WON'T BE OF ANY HELP.
OH-
WOAH!
BYE...
ON THAT NOTE,

Ren.

Rin-kun—

Pops up

YOU COULD SAY SOMETHING DIDN'T WORK,

EVEN FOR THIS IDEAL KO-BAYASHI RIN.

SORRY.

I'M KO-BAYASHI RIN.

YOU'RE REN!!

...YEAH.

IT MIGHT HAVE COME JUST AS A LITTLE BIT OF A SHOCK...

...IT WAS A SHOCK, HUH.

MAKING YOUR MOTHER REFUSE SO MUCH THAT SHE FAINTED.

IT'S FUNNY TO HEAR YOU SAYING STUFF ABOUT AGE DIFFERENCES,

WHEN YOU'RE THE ONE WHO GOT FED UP WITH BEING TOO DIFFERENT FROM SHION'S OUTWARD APPEARANCE!

IF YOU'VE CHANGED YOUR VIEWPOINT THEN YOU'RE JUST A NORMAL ADULT, SO SHUT UP!!

I'M SICK OF HEARING YOU SAY THAT!!

WHAT'S WRONG WITH BEING NORMAL?

THE REASON YOUR MOM FAINTED

WAS BECAUSE SHE WAS SO WORRIED ABOUT HER SON.

IN HER EYES,

YOU'RE NOTHING BUT HER SON,

BECAUSE YOU'RE REALLY REN.

YOU WERE BORN FROM TWO NORMAL PARENTS,

AND YOU'RE AN EXTREMELY NORMAL KID, REN.

I'M NOT NORMAL!!

I'M...

I'M...!

I'M THE CHOSEN CHILD TO HOUSE

ZAI TESS SHI ON'S MEMORIES!!!

ARE YOU PUTTING DOWN BEING NORMAL?

HEY.

WHO CHOSE YOU?

WHEN I THOUGHT I WAS SPECIAL TOO, JUST LIKE YOU.

YOU KNOW, A LONG TIME AGO THERE WAS A TIME

SHION... NO.

THE EARTH!!!

BUT ABOUT THAT... "BEING CHOSEN"...

I WAS CHOSEN AS YOUR SUBSTITUTE!!

BUT SINCE THEY COULDN'T USE YOU,

AND THE EARTH CHOSE SHION, TOO!

FOR WHAT?

FOR SAVING THE EARTH!!

FROM WHAT?

FROM ALL THE STUPID PEOPLE!!

LIKE YOUR MOM AND DAD?

...OH...!

KACHIKO'S NOT STUPID, AND SHE'S NOT NORMAL ANYWAY!!

HAHAHA-HAHA, AND KACHIKO?

YOU MAY BE STUPID, BUT NOT MOM!!

HE'S NORMAL. DOES THAT MAKE HIM STUPID?

OHHH, THEN HOW ABOUT CAPUTSUN?

CAPUTSUN IS NOT STUPID!!!

CAPUTSUN IS NORMAL, BUT...

CA...

ER..

A SPECIAL KIND OF NORMAL.

RIGHT.

YOU DIDN'T GET THAT?

BEING NORMAL IS SPECIAL, TOO.

HAVING OR NOT HAVING FRIENDS

REALLY DOES MAKE A DIFFERENCE, HUH?

WE'VE GOT SOME THINGS THAT MAKE US PRETTY UNIQUE, BUT WE'RE NORMAL PEOPLE.

MOM, AND DAD, AND YOU, AND KACHIKO AND MIKURO—

AND THAT MAKES EVERY-ONE NORMAL.

EVERY PERSON HAS SOMETHING THAT MAKES THEM MORE OR LESS UNIQUE,

IF YOU SAY THAT THE EARTH CHOSE YOU—

SO,

WHO IS MORE SPECIAL THAN NORMAL..

THERE'S NOT A SINGLE PERSON ANYWHERE

THEN THAT MEANS THE EARTH CHOSE EACH AND EVERY PERSON.

NO!

YOU DON'T GET ANYTHING AT ALL!!

OHHH? WELL THEN,

WHY DID THE EARTH CHOSE JUST YOU?

DID IT SPEAK TO YOU?

I DON'T REALLY THINK SHION, OR EVEN MOKUREN,

HEARD THE VOICE OF THE EARTH.

DID IT COME OUT OF NOWHERE TO MAKE A REQUEST?

SOMETHING THAT SIMPLE .. WE.L... IT TOOK ME...

A LONG TIME TO REAL-IZE IT, TOO.

THE EARTH

PROBABLY DOESN'T CHOOSE ANYBODY.

INSTEAD, HUMANS WILL CHOOSE HOW TO TREAT THE EARTH,

NEVER SAYS A WORD...

WHICH

IN ITS PAIN, IN ITS SADNESS,

IN ITS HAPPINESS,

...
DAD...!

I'M SORRY..., I

WHAT HAVE
I DONE?

.. I'VE BEEN
SO STUPID. .

ALL THIS TIME
I SHOULD HAVE—

JUST READ YOU DIRECTLY.

Shwip

Ha!!

HAHAA, HOW'S THAT?!

A DIRECT HIT TO THE HEAD.

Bam!

CATCHES

Slaps

Buzzing

DID YOU TREAT MY PSYCHOMETRY TOO LIGHTLY, TOO?

HEH HEH HEH.

WHOOP!

puts up a barrier

THE TWO OF US SHALL NOW COMMENCE...

SO PLEASE DON'T TRY TO COME IN FROM OUT THERE.

I PUT UP SOME POUCHING INSIDE HERE.

RIN-KUN IS CURRENTLY TAKING A NAP!

RIN-KUN?!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING ...?!

...REN?!

RIN-KUN!

...A DENSE READING!

..IT'S GREAT IT'S ALREADY GOTTEN TO THIS POINT.

AFTER ALL, THIS GUY STARTED IT IN THE FIRST PLACE.

BEING SCOLDED BY THE NO-GOOD RIN WAS THE WORST!

KOBAYASHI RIN-KUN, KOBAYASHI RIN-KUN,

WON'T YOU PLEASE TELL ME?

I WANT ALL YOUR MEMORIES FROM WHEN YOU WERE 8 YEARS OLD.

I DON'T NEED ANYTHING FROM AFTER THAT TIME.

FOR ALL THE WORLD, IT'S USELESS ANYWAY.

TEE HEE.

Pats

PLEASE FOR-
GET YOUR ADULT
MEMORIES.

RE-
ALLY.

BAM

UM?

...HUH?

...WHAT?

WELL, WHAT-EVER.

S-KUUUUN! WHERE IS 8-YEAR-OLD S-KUUUN?

Squeals

Squeals

Squeals

I'LL INHERIT THE REAL KOBA-YASHI RIN!

DOESN'T QUITE FEEL LIKE THAT...

DID I FAIL...?

EVERYTHING WENT PITCH BLACK...

THIS DOESN'T FEEL RIGHT.

CAMEL TROPHY

I AM THE REAL KOBAYASHI RI...

CLENCH

CAMEL TROPHY

...WHO... ARE YOU?

Jerks

EEK!

ER--

ER— AH— NO!

UH...

I CAME TO INHERIT YOUR RESOLVE!!

CAMEL TROPHY

...WHAT?

Eheh

...IMPER-SONATING ME?

...AH...

CAMEL TROPHY

CAMEL TROPHY

FOR IKEMEN'S SAKE!!

AND FOR CHIBI-IKEMEN'S SAKE, TOO!!

ACTUALLY, YOU ALREADY FAILED ONCE.

AFTER THAT YOU BECAME A NO-GOOD ADULT,

BUT YOUR GOALS WERE AMAZING,

SO I'LL BE TAKING THEM UP FOR YOU!!

S IS RIGHT HERE!!

HUH? AAAH!!

IT'S SHION!!

...WHO... IS "IKEMEN"?

CAMEL TROPHY

10

WHAT?!

Crack

OW!

Smack

Kyaaa

Rumbling

HA—

Blast

Rumbling

Hah

...Hah

CAME
TROPHY

.. SO THAT'S YOUR REAL FACE?

WELL, I'M USED TO BRATS IDOLIZING ME.

KASAMA? TAMURA?

...SO WHO WAS IT WHO TOLD YOU ABOUT SHION?

OR MAYBE—— M?

LET ME EXPLAIN!!

I HAVEN'T TOLD YOU EVERYTHING YET!!

WAIT, DAD!!

...WA...

HEH HEH HEH

HUUUH? YOUR DAD?

LISTEN!!

CAME TROPHY

DAD!! I...

FINE BY ME

—

...DON'TCHA' THINK IT'S GOTTEN A LITTLE TOO QUIET?

WON'T IT BE FUN?

LOOKS LIKE IT'S ONLY YOU AND ME HERE...

REN?!

...

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, REN?!

OPEN THIS DOOR!!

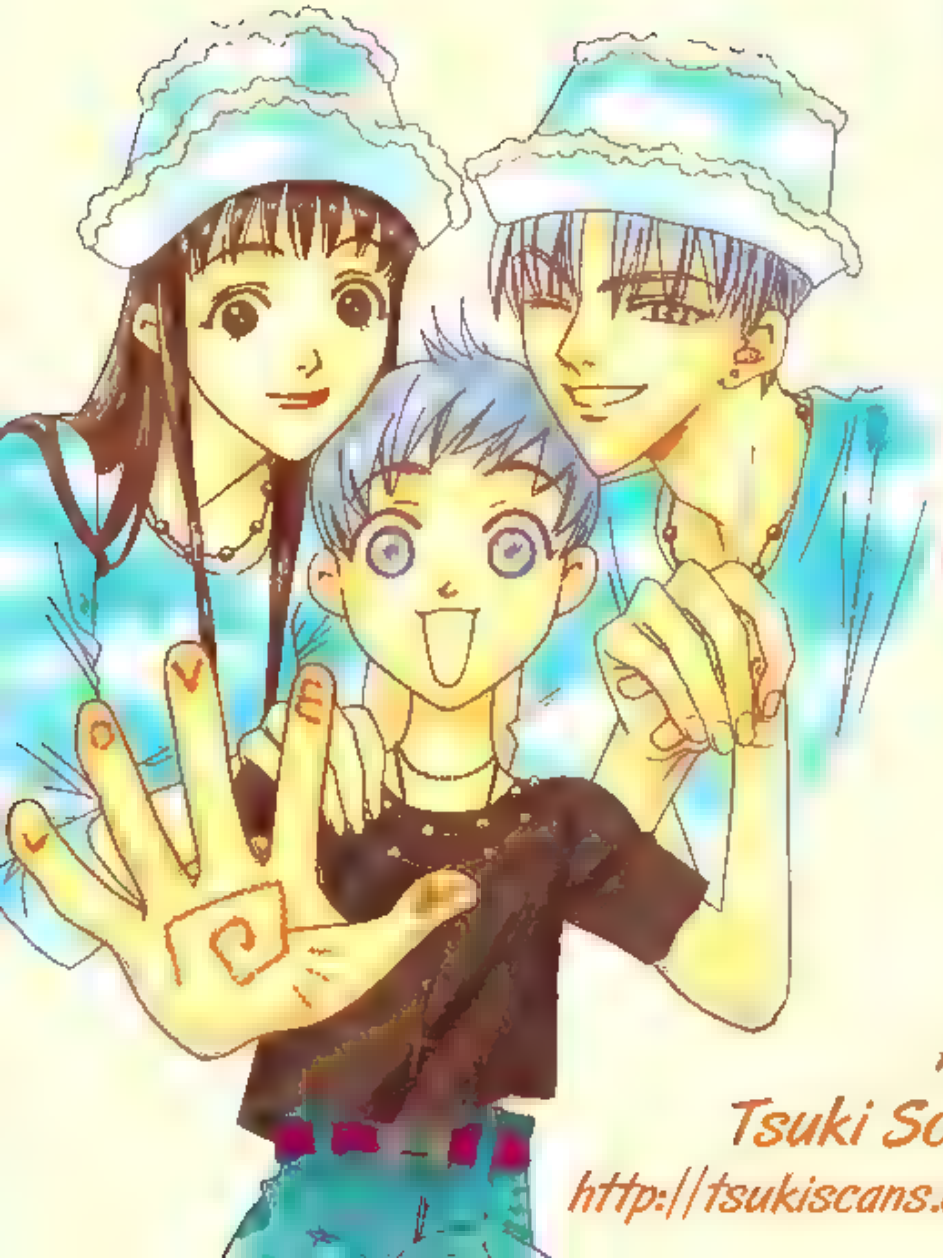
OPEN IT!!

UU...

U...

...RIN-KUN?!

ARE YOU IN THERE?!



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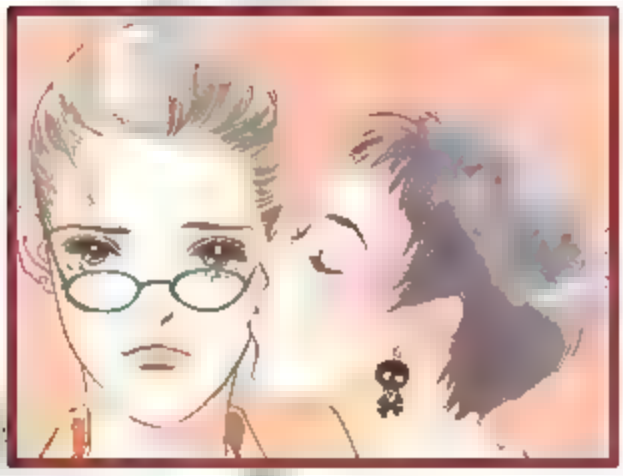

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Chapter 315

Memories of the
cap #15

I CAN'T OPEN IT AT ALL...?!

WHAT THE—

clenches

IT WON'T EVEN MAKE A SOUND!

THE DOOR-KNOB WON'T JIGGLE AT ALL...

SEE!

REN, OPEN IT!!!

HAS HAD THIS KIND OF EXPERIENCE BEFORE.

I THINK THAT MEANS HE PUT UP A BARRIER.

IT MIGHT BE A SHIELD WRAPPING ALONG THE INTERIOR...

JUST NOW,

REN SAID SOMETHING ABOUT POUCHING FROM THE INSIDE.

I DUNNO!

WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?

I NEVER THOUGHT I'D HEAR

EXPLANATIONS ABOUT ESP FROM ALICE-OBACHAN...

CAN YOU MOVE BACK A BIT?

...

Hiwatari's Endless Chattering

5

It's trivial, and I'm still doing what I usually would, but I just don't want to keep feeling "unsatisfied." That's why I'm going to reset myself into thinking "Well, whatever!"

If I can continue to control my feelings like this, will I stop saying that I'm "busy"? Time isn't something that we can see, but every person has the same amount of it, so it's just a good standard to go by. It's just that our perception of it differs depending on what we want to do with it.

I think the people who naturally answer "not at all!" when asked if they're busy, are people who have good control over their wants. I think that's so cool♥!

When you ask me "Isn't there enough time?" I want to smile and answer, "No, there's enough!" (Fired up)

REN!!!

REN!!!

REN?!

OCCHAN'S OUT COLD, TOO~~

LET'S CALL AN AMBULANCE, OBASAN!

UU...

UU

AH!

CAPUTSUN, OCCHAN SAID THAT IF ANY-THING HAP-PENS...

I'LL CALL, OKAY?!

THAT'S WHEN WE CALL—

...OBASAN, SHOULD WE REALLY CALL HARU-CHAN...?

Rin-kun—

YEAH... THAT'S RIGHT.

BOTH OF YOU, GO CALL HARU-CHAN OVER HERE...!!

HURRY!!

WELL THEN,

TALK TO ME.

HOW DO YOU KNOW ABOUT SHION?

THAT IS, ONLY IF YOU HURRY AND TELL ME NOW...

...AH... I'M YOUR SON,

KOBAYASHI RIN!!

I WON'T BE MEAN, ALL RIGHT?

IF I KNOW WHO IT WAS WHO PUT YOU UP TO THIS,

PH.

WAS IT THROUGH KASAMA OR TAMURA...

OR M?

FROM WHEN YOU WERE 8...

..AH! ...I... I READ THE MEMORIES FROM YOUR CAP...

I JUST WANTED TO KNOW MORE... I THOUGHT I WANTED TO MEET YOU...

CAMEL TROPHY

I... I WANTED TO MEET YOU!!

I WANTED TO TALK TO YOU DIRECTLY,

NOT YOU AS AN ADULT!

AND KNOW HOW YOU FELT!

MAKE ME UN-
DERSTAND THIS
MORE, BOY.

Huuuuh?

TROPHY

...I'm
shaking.

NOPE, AS I
THOUGHT, I
CAN'T THINK
OF ONE.

...Dad

I TRY TO
REMEMBER
A BRAT I
WOULD HAVE
PRODUCED..

AT THIS AGE,
NO MATTER
HOW MUCH

AT THIS
AGE...

Heh heh

This guy...
is Dad...?

Dad, why...?

TROPHY

WHO ARE YOU?

A LITTLE SUMMER BUG THAT FLIES INTO THE FIRE... AREN'T YOU?

...HEH HEH.

Why... are his eyes so cold?

He really doesn't know me...?

IN THE FUTURE...!

...IN...

S-SEE...

I CAME FROM THE FUTURE!

YOU GREW UP AND GOT MARRIED...

TO SAKAGUCHI ALICE!!

TO KOBAYASHI... NO,

...AND I WAS BORN...

CAMEL TROPHY

Ah!

...Ah.

CAMEL TROPHY

DON'T JOKE AROUND!!

It's Dad...!!

CAMEL TROPHY

AND I LIKE IT, TOO.

YOU SAID THAT'S FROM MOKUREN,

IT... IT'S TRUE.

YOU'RE THE ONE

WHAT? YOU DON'T LIKE THAT?

GETTING MARRIED TO MOM...

THERE'S NO REASON

YOU WOULDN'T LIKE IT!

BECAUSE YOU'VE LOVED MOM EVER SINCE THIS TIME—

WHO NAMED ME KOBAYASHI REN!!

SILENCE.

ONLY ANSWER MY QUESTIONS.

...IF IT'S TRUE THAT SHION AND MOKUREN WILL COME AND SAVE ME...

IKEMEN WILL DEFINITELY COME AND SCOLD YOU!

THEN ANY MINUTE NOW.

...THEN WHAT IF HE DOESN'T COME?

OHHH?

JUST WHAT ARE YOU?

HOW

DO YOU KNOW ABOUT SHION AND MOKUREN?

YOU'RE IMPORTANT TO IKEMEN,

DON'T YOU EVEN KNOW HOW WORRIED HE IS ABOUT YOU?!

HE SAID SO!!

IKEMEN SAID HE WANTED YOU TO SMILE!!

CAMEL TROPHY

THE REASON I KNOW THIS IS BECAUSE I'M KOBAYASHI REN!

I'M KOBAYASHI REN!!

IF YOU THINK I'M LYING, THEN——

CAMEL TROPHY

TROPHY

GO AHEAD AND READ MY HEART!!!

WOULD YOU

QUIT MAKING FUN OF PEOPLE...

Whoosh

PLEASE.

OVER HERE, HARU-CHAN!

OBA-CHAN, WE BROUGHT 'M!!

Stomps

Stomps

HURRY UP!!

YOUR LEGS ARE TOO SLOW!!

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!

A-CHAN!

Bam

I'M HURRYING, I'M HURRYING!

Huff -

Huff -

...HMH...?!

...O...
OBACHAN,
NOT YOU!
TOO...?!

WELL-WISHER
BALTIMORE

WHY...?!

I...! I DON'T KNOW, I JUST GOT HERE!

A-CHAN ... A-CHAN?!

WE SHOULDN'T MOVE HER!!

SHE MIGHT HAVE LOST CONSCIOUSNESS DUE TO THE SHOCK...

...NO...

THAT'S NOT QUITE IT, I THINK...

A-CHAN'S EYES ARE SLIGHTLY OPEN,

AND THEY'RE FLICKERING.

WHY?!
IT MIGHT BE BEST TO JUST KEEP AN EYE ON THEM.

...THIS...
MIGHT JUST BE...

...I REMEMBER SOMETHING LIKE THIS.
THOUGH, IT SURE WAS... A LONG TIME AGO.
...YEAH.

IN THAT CASE, IT SHOULD BE FINE.

A-CHAN PROBABLY WENT TO WHERE THOSE TWO ARE.

A-CHAN CERTAINLY WON'T FAIL.

TROPHY

TROPHY

...I CAN'T...!

...NGH...

DAMN IT!

I CAN'T DO IT!!!

...UNH...

WHY!!!

Bl am

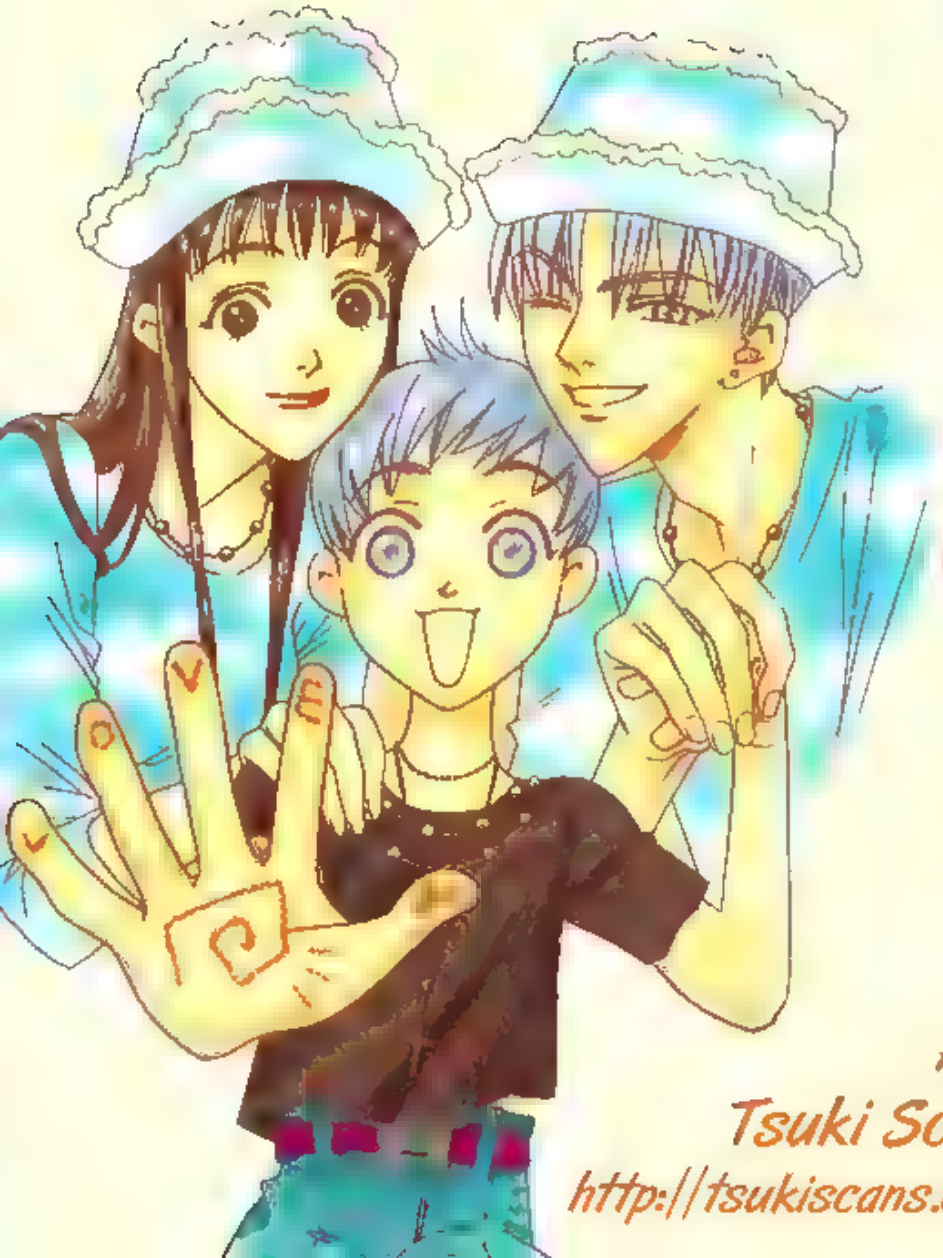
Shatters

...RE...

N...?

DAD!!!

——Rin-kun——!!



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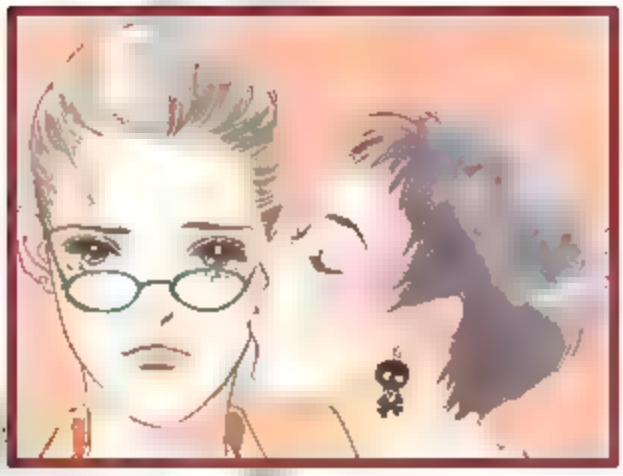

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Chapter 36

Memories of the Cap #16

Hiwatari's Endless Chattering

6

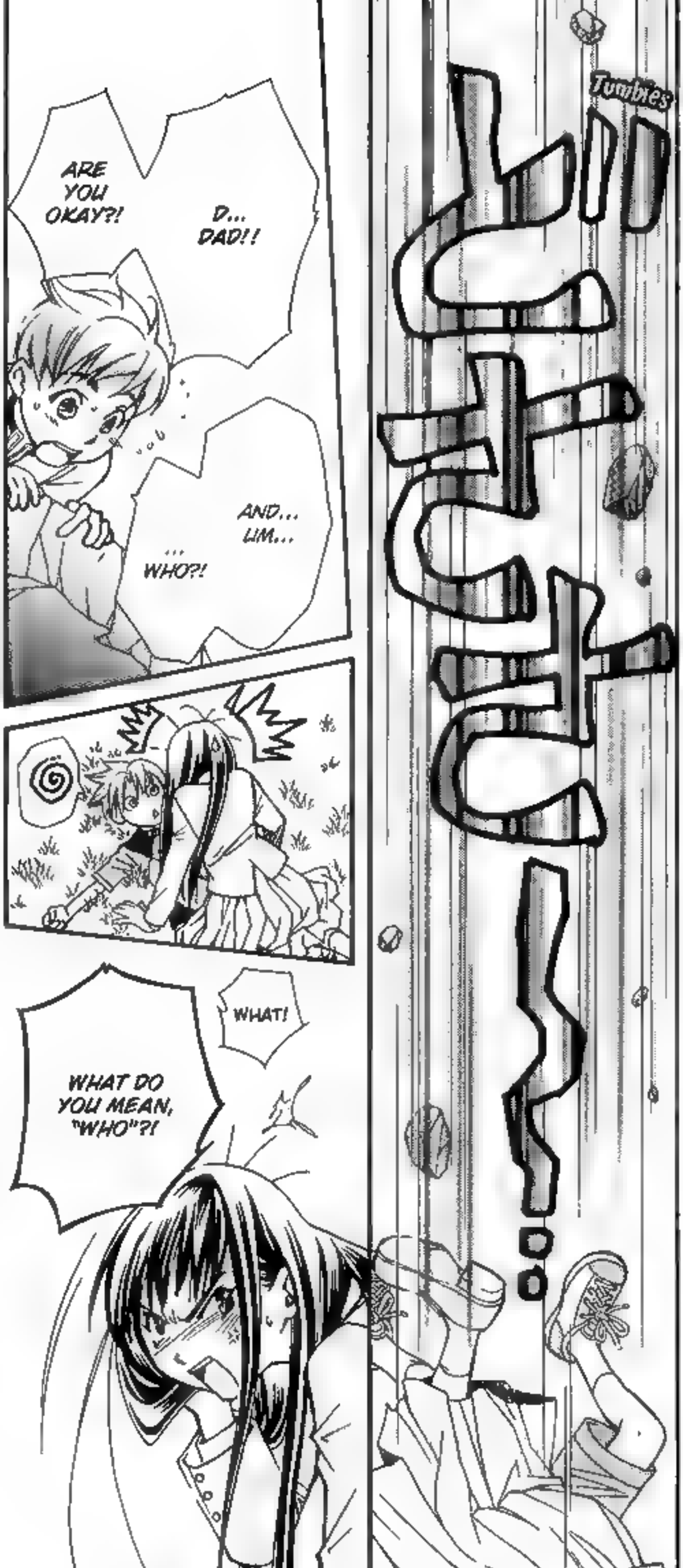
Until recently, Japanese people after the war lacked food and other necessities, and now we've got an abundance of stuff. It's thanks to the people who came before us. and I'm grateful.

I feel like we've got a strange tendency to say "there's enough" or "there's not enough." I've got a feeling that we'll only get through the coming times if we learn to say "there's enough" and are satisfied.

Rather than money or objects, it might be best to set priority on our feelings. We need to put our effort into preserving what we already have enough of instead of putting our effort into what we're lacking. At least Japan won't be going into any more wars, and we don't have to worry about weapons or raids. I think just knowing this is already plenty satisfying.

Well then, everyone, keep your feet on the ground and keep reaching for the stars! Take care of yourselves, and I look forward to seeing you again. Bye!

Hiwatari Saki,
1/15/2000



WHAT?!

POINTS

Oops, I knocked out Dad.

MOM...?!

HOW COULD YOU SAY THAT TO YOUR OWN MOTHER!!

HUH? DO WHAT?

DID YOU DO THAT, MOM?

...THE SCENERY CHANGED AT SOME POINT...

THEY WERE EVERY-WHERE.

THE SCEN-ERY. WEREN'T THERE JUST FLOATING BROKEN CRAGS?

NO.

REALLY? WASN'T IT ALWAYS LIKE THIS?

HUH?

REALLY?!

THIS IS REN'S INNER SPACE, SO DIDN'T YOU DO IT?

FURTHERMORE, WHY IS YOUR DAD SMALL LIKE THIS?

AND I CAME HERE LIKE THIS.

THAT'S RIGHT. YOU AND YOUR DAD WERE BOTH UNCONSCIOUS,

...BECAUSE...

Nuzzles

Nuzzles

Though I do like your little Dad!!

WHEN...

I WANTED TO MEET THE REAL, COOL S...

BUT...

DAD WAS A KID,

HE WAS REALLY SCARY...

HE TOOK THE FORM OF A KID BECAUSE YOU ASKED HIM TO?

I don't need anything from after that time

I want all your memories from when you were an 8-year-old.

Please forget your adult memories. Really.

Pats

AAAH?!!

...AH...!

BECAUSE... I SAID I DIDN'T NEED HIS ADULT MEMORIES!?

So that was it...

SO DAD FORGOT ABOUT ME?!

...I DON'T THINK I FORGOT ABOUT YOU...

Playing at being young?

SO WHY ARE YOU IN THAT FORM, ANYWAY?

I DON'T KNOW EITHER.

Roars!

What is this, fan service?

I DON'T KNOW, ASK REN!

AH! RIN-KUN, YOU'RE AWAKE?

JUST WHAT DID YOU INTEND TO DO?!

MAKING EVERYONE WORRY LIKE THAT!!

WELL!

IF THAT'S SO, I'M GETTING ANGRY!

YOU'VE COME THIS FAR,

SO TELL ME STRAIGHT HOW YOU FEEL RIGHT NOW.

...DO YOU STILL WANT TO INHERIT S?

...HE WAS COOL, THAT'S FOR SURE...

BUT...

YOU'RE BETTER THE WAY YOU ARE NOW...

...DAD,

WAS S... REALLY THAT COOL?

BUT...

YOU JUST LEFT,

WHAT IKE-MEN WANTED, UNFINISHED...

TO CHASTISE THOSE WHO LIVE AS THEY PLEASE?

WHAT DO YOU INTEND TO DO

WELL,

I'LL OPERATE THE MOON BASE, FIRST..

AND LEARN THE BLACK HYMN FROM MOM,

AND THEN I'LL SING IT MYSELF,

AND THEN DIVINE PUNISHMENT WILL FLOW FROM

THE MOON.

I'LL MAKE THEM THINK THERE REALLY IS A GOD,

AND CONTROL THEM.

Whoooo

Whoooo

SHION, ISN'T IT?

THE ONE WHO WANTS THE LANDSCAPE IN YOUR HEART TO GET LIKE THIS MIGHT BE...

THE SUN'S SUDDENLY GOTTEN COVERED UP WITH MASSES OF CLOUDS.

...I'M LISTENING, BUT.

BACK TO AN ADULT IN AN INSTANT.

I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO CUT ALL TIES WITH SHION.

IF THAT'S THE CASE...

HUH ...?

WHAAAAT?!

MOM, TOO.

SO I'VE DECIDED.

I SAY THIS BECAUSE I'M YOUR FATHER.

IT'S MY JOB TO PROTECT YOU

I'LL GET RID OF THEM.

IT DOESN'T MATTER WHETHER IT'S SHION OR THE CAD,

DAD...?!

SHION.

YOU'RE LISTENING, RIGHT?

...RIN-KUN...

WHAT DO YOU MEAN TO DO?

DAD...!!

Drips

Drips

Drips

Drips

Drips

Ikemen, don't come—

YOU CAN COME HERE TOO, CAN'T YOU?

Rumbles

Rumbles.

Rumbles

I'VE GOT SOMETHING IMPORTANT TO TALK ABOUT, SO LISTEN.

...!

Crackles

FLASH

KYA!

I...!

IKEMEN, YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE COME!

WHY DID YOU COME?!

Whoosh

.I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT A LOT OF THINGS, TOO...

BUT

TO CHILDREN,

YOU MIGHT REALLY BE...

A VIRUS.

THEY IDOLIZE YOU.

BUT NOW I GET IT.

YOUR CHARM IS CLOSE TO A NARCOTIC.

AND IN THAT,

THEY WANT TO DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO MAKE YOU SMILE.

YOU MIGHT HAVE LEAD MOKU-REN ON.

BUT YOU WON'T GET US.

STAY AWAY FROM REN.

ON NO ACCOUNT SHOULD YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH HIM.

...Understood.

NO

I APOLO-GIZE, SO DON'T DO THIS!!

I'M SORRY, I'M SORRY,

I REGRET IT AND I PROMISE NEVER DO THIS AGAIN.

SO—

ABSOLUTELY NOT!!!

D...

DAD!

I'M S—

SORRY!

UUH—

..ABSOLUTELY NOT.

SHAAAAA!!!

REN...!

SHAAAAA!!!

REN

Shakes

HM...?

...

SHAKE

SHAKE

SHAKE

SHAKE

AH .... MAYBE

...IT WAS AN ACT?

Uwaaah!

WHEN REN

GETS A LITTLE BIGGER.

IT'S OKAY TO MEET HIM. ?

He means?

HE LAUGHED .....!!!

...HE

What the hell.

Why now?

Trembles

Trembles

Fwa...

Trembles

Trembles

Trembles

REN, LOOK!

MOKUREN-SAN CAME TO SEE YOU, TOO!

AH!

Waaaaaaaaaa

Pretty Ladyyyyy.

Haaah

...I understand.

However, I have one condition.

If you say I mustn't meet him again,

I'd like you to entrust him to me here in this scope of this world for the time being,

to be with me and Mokuren for a while.

UNDERSTOOD.

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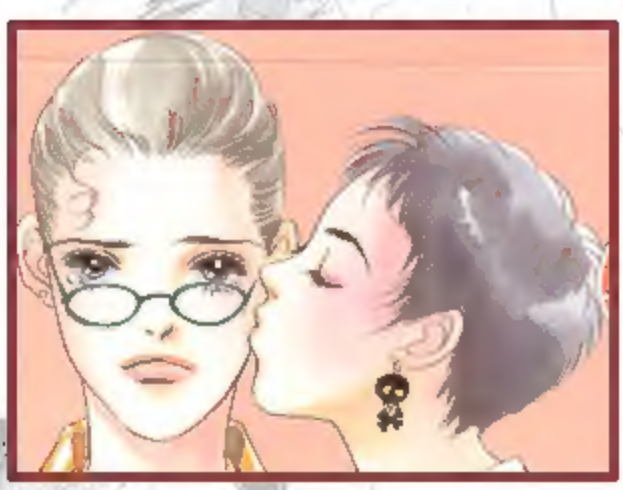

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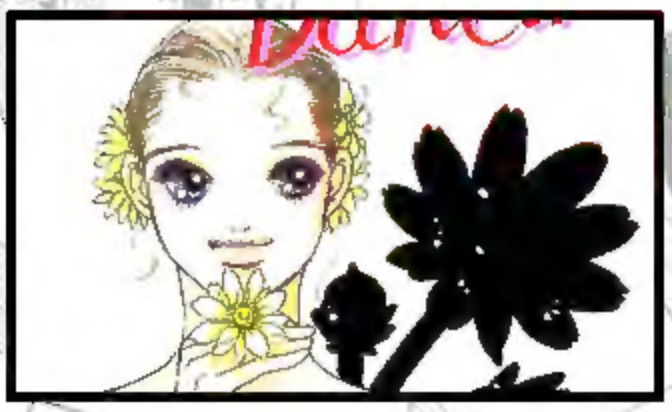

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